In the claims:

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (New) A software tool operating on a computer appliance for versioning and Configuration Management of models in a computing system comprising;

a modeling means in which associations are augmented with the notion of ownership;

a component means for containing objects associations and properties; said component means having a mechanism for versioning;

the component further having means to create a tree of component versions; with further means to support change isolation; and

a configuration as a unit for assembling component versions providing a binding context for associations between objects contained in the assembled component versions; the configuration having means to interpret the semantics of association ownership to determine the completeness and compatibility of assembled component versions.

- 20. (New) The software tool of claim 19, wherein the version mechanism of the component is flexible to permit a user to include a plurality of objects as determined by the user.
- 21. (New) The software tool of claim 19, wherein configuration includes means to track configuration evolution history.
- 22. (New) The software tool of claim 19, in which a facility is provided to track component version evolution history.
- 23. (New) The software tool of claim 19, having means to support a plurality of

models and meta models.

- 24. (New) A method for versioning and Configuration Management of models in a computing system comprising the steps of;
- (a) providing modeling means for augmenting associations with the notion of ownership;
- (b) providing a component means for containing objects associations and properties; said component means having a mechanism for versioning;
- (c) creating a tree of component versions further having means to support change isolation;
- (d) providing a configuration as a unit for assembling component versions and providing a binding context for associations between objects contained in the assembled component versions; and
- (e) interpreting the semantics of association ownership to determine the completeness and compatibility of assembled component versions.
- 25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the version mechanism of the component is flexible to permit a user to include a plurality of objects as determined by the user.
- 26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the configuration includes means to track configuration evolution history.
- 27. (New) The method of claim 24, in which a step is provided to track component version evolution history.
- 28. (New) The method of claim 24, having means in step (a) to support a plurality of models and meta models.